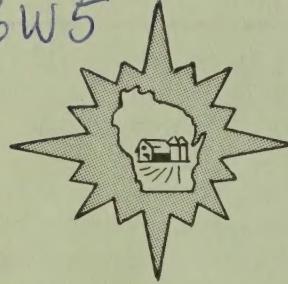


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WISCONSIN

Farm Reporter

VOL. VIII, NO. 8

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

June 1976

Cream of the News

Wisconsin's milk production during May was 6 percent above a year earlier as was the output for the first five months of this year.

Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points declined nearly 2 cents a pound from April to May.

Italian cheese production in Wisconsin continued upward during 1975 and accounted for 21 percent of all cheese manufactured in the State.

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for milk sold in May are expected to average 13 cents lower than in April.

Cheese production in Wisconsin during 1975 declined for the first time since 1962 as output of American cheese was down 8 percent from 1974.

Cold storage stocks of butter and cheese in the Nation at the end of May continued below a year earlier.

Cheddar types accounted for 71 percent of the total American cheese made in Wisconsin during 1975, with large styles the predominant kind manufactured.

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers for mid-May was unchanged from April as lower milk prices offset gains for most crops, livestock, and poultry.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of May were above a year ago for the first time since October 31, 1974.

The Nation's hog inventory on June 1 was up 9 percent from the previous year but was 11 percent under two years ago.

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during April was 3 percent above last year due to an increase in beef supplies.

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market increased from April to May but good grade fed steer prices declined.

222-6-76

STATE'S MILK OUTPUT UP 6 PERCENT

Production of milk in Wisconsin during May and in the first five months of 1976 was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Dairy herds in the State produced 1,919 million pounds of milk in May, a seasonal gain of 8 percent from April. Output per cow averaged a record high of 1,060 pounds for May, an increase of 65 pounds from May 1975. Milk cows on farms totaled 1,810,000 during May, down 3,000 from a year ago. Total milk production in Wisconsin from January through May was 8.6 billion pounds compared with 8.1 billion pounds for that period last year.

The Nation's milk production of 11.2 billion pounds during May was 3 percent higher than the previous year, the same increase as shown in the first five months of 1976.

Milk Production

Selected States	May 1975	May 1976	Jan.-May 1976	Change from last year	
				May	Jan.-May
Million pounds					
Wisconsin . . .	1,804	1,919	8,609	+ 6	+ 6
Minnesota . . .	902	921	4,286	+ 2	n. c.
Iowa . . .	376	380	1,700	+ 1	+ 1
New York . . .	940	964	4,421	+ 3	+ 3
Pennsylvania . .	671	696	3,101	+ 4	+ 3
California . . .	966	1,039	4,672	+ 8	+ 7
Other states . .	5,159	5,265	23,888	+ 2	+ 2
United States .	10,818	11,184	50,677	+ 3	+ 3

MILK PRICE LOWER IN MAY

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk delivered to plants and dealers in May are expected to average \$8.90 a hundredweight, a decline of 13 cents from April. However, the May milk price would be \$1.36 higher than a year earlier.

Milk prices for April averaged \$9.03 a hundredweight, down 15 cents from the previous month but \$1.51 above April 1975. Milkfat content averaged 3.72 percent for April compared with 3.78 percent a year ago.

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Market grade milk averaged \$9.15 a hundredweight during April, a decline of 31 cents from March but \$1.43 more than the previous year. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$8.85 a hundredweight for April, was up 8 cents from a month earlier and \$1.61 above April 1975. The difference between market and manufacturing grade milk was 30 cents for April compared with 48 cents last year.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	March 1976		April price per cwt.			May 1976 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1975	1976	76/75 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.74	9.18	7.52	9.03	+ 20	8.90
Minnesota	3.62	8.79	7.14	8.62	+ 21	8.65
Iowa	3.74	9.15	7.35	8.90	+ 21	8.95
New York	3.64	9.80	7.80	9.20	+ 18	9.15
California	3.61	8.85	8.81	8.80	n. c.	8.90
United States	3.68	9.72	8.14	9.37	+ 15	9.33
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.75	9.46	7.72	9.15	+ 19	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.73	8.77	7.24	8.85	+ 22	xxx
Creameries	3.72	8.73	7.13	8.82	+ 24	xxx
Cheese factories .	3.73	8.78	7.26	8.85	+ 22	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.73	8.74	7.17	8.82	+ 23	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	April 1975	March 1976	April 1976 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			
Milk for all uses	6.96	8.59	8.49	+ 22
Market milk	7.11	8.83	8.61	+ 21
Manufacturing milk	6.74	8.23	8.35	+ 24
Creameries	6.80	8.21	8.32	+ 22
American cheese plants	6.73	8.24	8.34	+ 24
Varied products plants	6.73	8.20	8.30	+ 23
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . . .	7.48	9.25	8.91	+ 19

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

WHOLESALE CHEDDAR CHEESE PRICE DOWN IN MAY

Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged about 95 cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points in May. This was nearly 2 cents below the previous month but more than 14 cents above last year.

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 123.50 cents a pound for May. Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese remained unchanged from April but were more than 16 cents above May 1975.

The 92-score butter price at New York averaged 92.12 cents a pound during May, up slightly from a month earlier and well above the average of 70½ cents for May last year.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	May 1975	April 1976	May 1976 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	70.50¢	91.77¢	92.12¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/	80.56¢	96.88¢	94.94¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	107.15¢	123.50¢	123.50¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$11.55-12.54	\$13.20-14.15	\$ - - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	60.36¢	62.90¢	62.71¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

CHEESE PRODUCTION 22 PERCENT ABOVE APRIL 1975

Total cheese production in the United States during April was up 22 percent from a year earlier. Output of both American and Swiss cheese was 22 percent higher than April 1975. Italian cheese production for April increased 26 percent from that month last year. While output of Brick and Muenster was equal to April 1975, production of all other varieties of cheese gained 15 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	April 1975	April 1976	Jan.-Apr. 1976	Change from last year
	April	Jan.-Apr.	April	Jan.-Apr.
1,000 pounds				
BUTTER				
Wisconsin	21,300	19,500	81,100	- 8 + 1
Minnesota	23,900	17,385	69,110	- 27 - 22
California	11,200	13,000	53,300	+ 16 + 27
Other states	44,473	37,700	153,121	- 15 - 12
United States	100,873	87,585	356,631	- 13 - 7
CHEESE, AMERICAN				
Wisconsin	65,300	75,400	275,300	+ 15 + 16
Minnesota	22,820	33,300	116,050	+ 46 + 33
Iowa	6,800	9,000	33,910	+ 32 + 28
Other states	57,975	69,457	226,662	+ 20 + 15
United States	152,895	187,157	651,922	+ 22 + 19
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS				
United States				
Swiss	14,485	17,729	63,282	+ 22 + 21
Brick and Muenster	6,526	6,535	27,552	n. c. + 10
Italian	52,884	66,525	243,880	+ 26 + 19
All other	16,600	19,061	75,556	+ 15 + 9
Total	90,495	109,850	410,270	+ 21 + 17
ALL CHEESE				
United States	243,390	297,007	1,062,192	+ 22 + 18
OTHER PRODUCTS				
Cottage Cheese				
United States				
Curd 1/	60,632	63,395	242,464	+ 5 + 5
Creamed 2/	78,871	78,454	301,226	- 1 + 2
1,000 gallons				
Ice Cream				
Wisconsin	1,300	1,550	5,250	+ 19 + 2
Illinois	3,950	3,430	12,945	- 13 - 1
Iowa	970	980	3,575	+ 1 + 10
Michigan	3,150	3,415	12,150	+ 8 - 3
Minnesota	2,300	2,145	7,815	- 7 - 10
Other states	57,181	57,934	213,662	+ 1 - 1
United States	68,851	69,454	255,397	+ 1 - 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

Wisconsin's production of American cheese in April was 15 percent above a year ago. Increases shown by other major American cheese producing states were Minnesota 46 percent, Iowa 32 percent, and all other states 20 percent.

The Nation's butter production during April was down 13 percent from a year earlier. Although California churned 16 percent more butter than in April 1975, production in Wisconsin declined 8 percent and Minnesota had a drop of 27 percent. All other states produced 15 percent less butter in April than a year ago.

CHEESE AND BUTTER STOCKS REMAIN LOWER

Cold storage stocks of butter and cheese in the Nation at the end of May continued under a year earlier. The 67 million pounds of butter in cold storage on May 31 were 18 million pounds or 21 percent below that date last year. Government stocks of butter totaled less than 5 million pounds compared with over 48 million pounds on May 31, 1975.

Cheese stocks in cold storage at the end of May amounted to 433 million pounds, 20 million pounds below a year earlier. Stocks of American cheese were down 4 percent from May 31, 1975. Swiss cheese supplies in cold storage at the end of May were down 42 percent from a year ago but stocks of other cheese were up 4 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	May 31, 1974	May 31, 1975	May 31, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter	97,413	85,111	67,053	- 21
Cheese, American	454,766	390,757	373,412	- 4
Cheese, Swiss	14,002	11,381	6,605	- 42
Cheese, all other	64,663	50,973	53,132	+ 4
Cheese, total	533,431	453,111	433,149	- 4
WISCONSIN				
Butter	5,359	6,815	7,767	+ 14
Cheese, American	260,973	214,155	190,533	- 11
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	9,229	48,287	4,451	- 91
Cheese, American	429	3,713	427	- 88

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	April 30, 1974	April 30, 1975	April 30, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	10,177	5,020	9,109	+ 81
Dried skim milk	87,479	111,740	75,619	- 32
Dried buttermilk	6,913	6,412	5,226	- 18
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	76,670	60,304	76,764	+ 27

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

ITALIAN CHEESE PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Production of Italian cheese in Wisconsin totaled nearly 231 million pounds during 1975, up 6 percent from 1974 and more than four times the 1957 level when records on Italian cheese varieties began. Output of Italian cheese ac-

counted for 21 percent of all cheese made in Wisconsin during 1975 compared with only 9 percent in 1957.

Mozzarella, a soft type cheese used by the pizza trade, continues as the most popular variety of Italian cheese produced in Wisconsin. Mozzarella accounted for 62 percent of all Italian cheese made in 1975. There were 144 million pounds of mozzarella cheese manufactured during 1975 compared with only 11 million pounds in 1957.

Soft types represented 64 percent of all Italian cheese produced in 1975, with Mozzarella providing almost all of that figure. Production of soft types increased 14 percent from 1974 to 1975 while hard types declined 5 percent. Provolone is the leading variety of hard type Italian cheese. The 43 million pounds of Provolone produced in 1975 represented 19 percent of all Italian cheese. Output of all hard types Italian cheese declined during 1975 from the previous year except for Romano which increased about 3 percent.

Italian Cheese Production by Varieties in Wisconsin

Variety	1957	1964	1969	1973	1974	1975
Thousand pounds						
HARD						
Asiago	1/	1,155	837	1/	1/	1/
Parmesan	11,807	22,275	18,817	20,836	25,790	24,945
Provolone	19,437	24,184	28,922	40,340	45,116	43,023
Romano	5,279	13,493	14,115	14,261	12,904	13,249
Other hard	1,780	317	1,170	3,297	3,588	1,799
Total Hard	38,303	61,424	63,861	78,734	87,398	83,016
SOFT						
Mozzarella	11,233	48,011	89,261	118,648	128,032	144,119
Other Soft 2/	954	1,174	588	2,292	1,587	3,751
Total Soft	12,187	49,185	89,849	120,940	129,619	147,870
All Italian	55,156 ^{3/}	110,609	153,710	199,674	217,017	230,886

1/Combined with other hard. 2/Excludes Gorgonzola, formerly published as an Italian cheese. 3/Includes 4,666,000 pounds not reported by variety.

AMERICAN CHEESE OUTPUT TO CONTINUE HIGHER

According to weekly estimates for May, production of American cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation will continue well above a year ago. The Nation's output of American cheese in May could be 22 percent above last year, the same increase as in April and slightly higher than the 19 percent gain shown for the first four months of 1976. Production of American cheese in Wisconsin during May could be about 19 percent more than a year ago compared with a 15 percent increase in April and a 16 percent gain from January through April.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1976	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1976	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
April	87,585	- 13	- 8	187,157	+ 22	+ 15
Jan.-April	356,631	- 7	+ 1	651,922	+ 19	+ 16
Weeks ending:						
May 6 . . .	21,030	- 8	- 6	45,950	+ 24	+ 18
13 . . .	20,920	- 7	+ 3	45,400	+ 23	+ 20
20 . . .	20,800	- 9	- 3	46,350	+ 21	+ 19
27 . . .	20,800	- 11	- 1	48,200	+ 22	+ 19
Total	83,550	- 9	xxx	185,900	+ 22	xxx

Weekly estimates indicate that the Nation's butter production during May will be about 9 percent below the previous year. This follows a 13 percent drop in butter output for April and a decline of 7 percent during the first four months of 1976. Wisconsin's butter production for May could be lower than a year earlier but not as much as the 8 percent decline shown in April. Butter output in the State's creameries from January through April was 1 percent above that period last year.

1975 MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Production of cheese in Wisconsin's dairy plants declined in 1975 for the first time since 1962. Total cheese production for 1975 was down more than 3 percent from 1974 but still exceeded a billion pounds. Record amounts of Italian and Muenster cheese were manufactured in 1975 but American cheese production was down. The 706 million pounds

Manufactured Dairy Products, Wisconsin, 1974-75

Product	Unit	1974	1975	Change from last year
		Thousands		Percent
Creamery butter (including whey butter)	Lb.	193,067	214,276	+ 11
Cheese				
American	Lb.	764,420	705,995	- 8
Cheddar	Lb.	569,219	502,169	- 12
Colby	Lb.	126,362	143,275	+ 13
Other types 1/	Lb.	68,839	60,551	- 12
Swiss	Lb.	29,795	33,349	+ 12
Muenster	Lb.	38,949	41,769	+ 7
Brick	Lb.	16,703	13,596	- 19
Limburger	Lb.	1,878	1,601	- 15
Italian	Lb.	217,017	230,886	+ 6
All other cheese (excluding cottage cheese)	Lb.	59,545	62,782	+ 5
Total cheese (excluding cottage cheese)	Lb.	1,128,307	1,089,978	- 3
Condensed products (bulk goods)				
Sweetened condensed whole milk	Lb.	55,414	59,583	+ 8
Unsweetened condensed whole milk	Lb.	57,318	34,434	- 40
Sweetened condensed skim milk	Lb.	33,938	25,294	- 25
Unsweetened condensed skim milk	Lb.	92,828	108,382	+ 17
Condensed buttermilk	Lb.	9,094	18,904	+ 108
Dry products				
Dry whole milk	Lb.	2,575	1,782	- 31
Dry skim milk (human food)	Lb.	108,243	114,695	+ 6
Dry skim milk (animal feed)	Lb.	411	785	+ 91
Dry buttermilk	Lb.	11,436	10,112	- 12
Malted milk powder	Lb.	14,187	11,332	- 20
Whey products (solids)				
Dry whey (human food)	Lb.	189,716	187,958	- 1
Dry whey (animal feed)	Lb.	208,813	139,436	- 33
Condensed whey (human food)	Lb.	2/	5,340	
Condensed whey (animal feed)	Lb.	2/	2,003	
Lactose (human food)	Lb.	2/	63,133	
Lactose (animal feed)	Lb.	2/	27,069	
Whey solids in wet blends (human food)	Lb.	2/	7,361	
Whey solids in wet blends (animal feed)	Lb.	2/	45,911	
Total whey products (all uses)	Lb.	2/	478,211	
Other products				
Ice cream	Gal.	17,013	19,642	+ 15
Ice milk	Gal.	6,658	7,614	+ 14
Cottage cheese curd	Lb.	39,708	37,384	- 6
Cottage cheese creamed 3/	Lb.	55,237	57,670	+ 4
Processed cheese	Lb.	344,827	343,552	n. c.
Processed cheese foods & spreads	Lb.	125,036	137,590	+ 10
Cold pack cheese	Lb.	25,150	32,052	+ 27

1/Includes Jack, Monterey and Granular. 2/Data not summarized as such in 1974.

3/Includes lowfat creamed cottage cheese.

of American cheese made during 1975 were 8 percent under 1974. Production of Italian cheese, at 231 million pounds for 1975, was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Output of Swiss cheese in 1975 increased 12 percent from 1974. Muenster cheese production for 1975 was up 7 percent from the previous year but output of Brick cheese declined 19 percent.

Butter production in Wisconsin during 1975 increased 11 percent from 1974. The 214 million pounds of butter churned in 1975 were the most since 1968. Production of nonfat dry milk for 1975 was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Output of dry buttermilk in 1975 was 12 percent below 1974 and dry whole milk production declined 31 percent. The 19 million pounds of condensed buttermilk made in 1975 was more than double the previous year.

Ice cream production totaled over 19 million gallons during 1975, a gain of 15 percent from 1974 and the most since 1971. The 7.6 million gallons of ice milk mix made in 1975 was 14 percent more than a year earlier and a record high. Cottage cheese curd production for 1975 was 6 percent under 1974 but output of creamed cottage cheese increased 4 percent.

Of the whey products manufactured in 1975, a total of 327.4 million pounds of solids were dry whey, 7.3 million pounds were condensed whey, 90.2 million pounds were lactose, and 53.3 million pounds were whey solids in wet blends.

CHEDDAR TYPES PRIMARY AMERICAN CHEESE STYLE

Cheddar types accounted for 71 percent of the total American cheese made in Wisconsin during 1975. Large styles were again predominant with the 500 pound barrels and the 640 pound square containers providing about 51 percent of the total American cheese production. Forty pound blocks were the second most popular style, making up nearly 36 percent of the 1975 production. Longhorns and 60 pound blocks each contributed 5 percent of the American cheese styles in 1975. Dairy plants in Wisconsin manufactured 706 million pounds of American cheese during 1975, accounting for 43 percent of the National total.

American Cheese Production by Style, Wisconsin, 1975

Style	Cheddar	All other American 1/	All American	Percent of total production		
				1975	1974	1973
Thousand pounds						
Barrel 2/ . .	262,931	96,053	358,984	50.8	49.4	42.8
Cheddar . .	923	-	923	.1	.3	5.4
Daisy . . .	12,483	785	13,268	1.9	1.9	1.6
Longhorn . .	20,304	13,330	33,634	4.8	4.4	4.5
Block 20 lb.	1,080	299	1,379	.2	.2	.2
Block 40 lb.	173,222	78,538	251,760	35.7	37.0	39.3
Block 60 lb.	20,678	14,401	35,079	5.0	5.2	4.8
Mammoth . .	2,318	8	2,326	.3	.4	.3
Flats . . .	1,929	156	2,085	.3	.2	.1
Midgets . . .	5,799	-	5,799	.8	.9	.9
Other . . .	502	256	758	.1	.1	.1
Total . . .	502,169	203,826	705,995	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/Includes Colby, washed and stirred curd, Monterey and Jack. 2/Includes 640 pound square containers.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED UNCHANGED FROM APRIL TO MAY

The index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products sold in the month ending May 15 remained unchanged from April. Higher prices for most crops, livestock, and poultry items were offset by a decline in milk prices. At 584 percent of the 1910-14 base, the index of prices received for mid-May was 81 points (16 percent) above a year earlier.

Milk cows averaged \$555.00 each as of May 15, up \$10.00 from April and the eighth consecutive month of higher prices for milk cows. A year ago in May the average price for milk cows was \$470.00 each.

Steers and heifers averaged \$37.20 a hundredweight in mid-May, the same as a month earlier but \$1.40 under last year. Slaughter cows, at \$30.00 a hundredweight for May, were up 50 cents from April and \$6.70 above May 1975.

Calves averaged \$42.60 a hundredweight on May 15, a gain of \$3.40 from the previous month. Calves have increased in price every month in 1976 and were \$7.80 higher than a year ago.

Hogs increased 50 cents from April to May. At \$46.90 a hundredweight for mid-May, hogs were \$2.80 above last year.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	May 15, 1974	May 15, 1975	April 15, 1976	May 15, 1976
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	630.00	470.00	545.00	555.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	35.00	38.60	37.20	37.20
Cows	Cwt.	29.00	23.30	29.50	30.00
Calves	Cwt.	48.50	34.80	39.20	42.60
Hogs	Cwt.	25.50	44.10	46.40	46.90
Sheep	Cwt.	10.00	8.10	11.70	12.00
Lambs	Cwt.	37.80	41.60	48.90	50.50
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.125	.115	.105	.120
Turkeys	Lb.	.240	.340	2/	.360
Eggs	Doz.	.432	.403	.470	.479
Corn	Bu.	2.55	2.69	2.49	2.62
Wheat	Bu.	3.30	2.86	3.04	2.94
Oats	Bu.	1.33	1.49	1.39	1.40
Soybeans	Bu.	5.16	4.91	4.41	4.78
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	33.00	47.00	51.00	52.00

1/Excludes broilers. 2/Insufficient sales to establish price.

Sheep averaged \$12.00 a hundredweight in May, the highest price since February 1952. Sheep gained 30 cents from April to May and were \$3.90 more than a year ago.

Lambs exceeded \$50.00 a hundredweight for the first time ever. At \$50.50 a hundredweight in May, lambs were \$1.60 above April and \$8.90 higher than May 1975.

Egg prices averaged about 48 cents a dozen on May 15, up 1 cent from a month earlier and almost 8 cents greater than last year. Turkeys averaged 36 cents a pound liveweight for May, an increase of 2 cents from a year ago.

The mid-May corn price of \$2.62 a bushel was 13 cents more than April but 7 cents below May 1975. Wheat declined 10 cents from April to May but at \$2.94 a bushel in May was 8 cents above last year.

Oats averaged \$1.40 a bushel for mid-May, up 1 cent from the previous month but 9 cents below May 1975. Soybeans increased 37 cents from April to May but at \$4.78 a bushel were 13 cents less than a year ago.

The mid-May price of baled alfalfa hay averaged \$52.00 a ton, a gain of \$1.00 from a month earlier and \$5.00 above

the previous year.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION ABOVE APRIL LAST YEAR

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during April totaled 114 million pounds, up 3 percent from a year ago. A 10 percent increase in beef supplies offset an 8 percent drop in pork production.

The 123,000 cattle slaughtered during April were 12,000 more than a year earlier. Average liveweight of cattle for April was 1,087 pounds, 4 pounds lighter than in April 1975.

There were 268,000 hogs butchered in April, a decline of 29,000 from the previous year. Hog liveweight, at 244 pounds for April was 5 pounds heavier than a year ago.

Calf slaughter numbered 36,000 head during April, down 1,000 from April 1975. Calves averaged 124 pounds liveweight, a decline of 8 pounds from April last year. The 300 sheep and lambs killed in April were 100 less than a year earlier.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number		Liveweight		
	April		Change from last year	April	
	1975	1976		1975	1976
		1,000 head		Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	111.0	123.0	+ 11	121.1	133.7
United States 1/ . . .	3,207.8	3,354.5	+ 5	3,236.9	3,416.9
Calves					
Wisconsin	37.0	36.0	- 3	4.9	4.5
United States 1/ . . .	384.0	418.9	+ 9	106.7	104.3
Hogs					
Wisconsin	297.0	268.0	- 10	71.0	65.4
United States 1/ . . .	6,730.4	6,087.3	- 10	1,596.6	1,436.8
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin4	.3	- 25	.038	.030
United States 1/ . . .	652.0	589.8	- 10	68.2	64.1

1/Excludes Alaska.

NATION'S HOG INVENTORY 9 PERCENT ABOVE YEAR AGO

Hogs and pigs on the Nation's farms June 1 totaled 52.6 million head, up 9 percent from a year ago. However, the June 1, 1976 inventory was 11 percent less than two years ago and the second lowest June 1 total since 1965. The breeding herd is up 11 percent from last year and continues the upward trend that started in December 1975. Because of the larger pig crop produced in the past six months, the market hog inventory increased 9 percent from a year earlier.

In the 14 quarterly states that account for 85 percent of the Nation's inventory, all hogs and pigs numbered 44.9 million head on June 1. This was 10 percent above the low number on hand a year ago but 12 percent less than June 1, 1974.

Wisconsin hog producers had 1,290,000 hogs and pigs on farms June 1, an increase of 1 percent from a year earlier. Breeding stock totaled 237,000 head, up 3 percent from June 1, 1975. Market hogs, at 1,053,000 head, were nearly the same as a year ago.

A total of 98,000 sows farrowed in Wisconsin during the March-May quarter, an increase of 15 percent from that

period last year. The March-May pig crop was also up 15 percent as the litter rate of 7.45 pigs was equal to a year earlier. Wisconsin hog producers intend to farrow 78,000 sows during June through August. This would be 4 percent more than farrowed in that quarter last year. Farrowings in the State for the September through November quarter are expected to total 91,000 sows, a gain of 18 percent from

that quarter in 1975.

Hog producers in the 14 quarterly states plan to farrow 4.9 million sows during the next six months, up 17 percent from those months in 1975. An increase of 16 percent is indicated for the June-August quarter and a gain of 19 percent is intended for the September-November quarter compared with a year earlier.

All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market
June 1, 1975 and 1976, 14 States

States	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1975	1976	Change from last year	1975	1976	Change from last year	1975	1976	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	218	250	+ 15	1,142	1,178	+ 3	1,360	1,428	+ 5
Illinois	900	884	- 2	5,100	5,216	+ 2	6,000	6,100	+ 2
Indiana	518	587	+ 13	3,032	3,463	+ 14	3,550	4,050	+ 14
Iowa	1,769	2,050	+ 16	10,431	11,600	+ 11	12,200	13,650	+ 12
Kansas	202	239	+ 18	1,238	1,411	+ 14	1,440	1,650	+ 15
Kentucky	148	179	+ 21	777	846	+ 9	925	1,025	+ 11
Minnesota	479	544	+ 14	2,421	2,656	+ 10	2,900	3,200	+ 10
Missouri	495	540	+ 9	2,505	2,760	+ 10	3,000	3,300	+ 10
Nebraska	392	457	+ 17	2,408	2,693	+ 12	2,800	3,150	+ 13
North Carolina	266	312	+ 17	1,394	1,638	+ 18	1,660	1,950	+ 17
Ohio	248	258	+ 4	1,352	1,412	+ 4	1,600	1,670	+ 4
South Dakota	194	236	+ 22	1,246	1,339	+ 7	1,440	1,575	+ 9
Texas	132	143	+ 8	668	737	+ 10	800	880	+ 10
Wisconsin	230	237	+ 3	1,050	1,053	n. c.	1,280	1,290	+ 1
Total 14 States	6,191	6,916	+ 12	34,764	38,002	+ 9	40,955	44,918	+ 10

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop
March through May, 1975 and 1976, 14 States

States	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 1/		
	1975	1976	Change from last year	1975	1976	1975	1976	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Head		1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	62	75	+ 21	6.97	6.94	432	521	+ 21
Illinois	380	405	+ 7	6.95	7.15	2,641	2,896	+ 10
Indiana	170	220	+ 29	7.30	7.40	1,241	1,628	+ 31
Iowa	745	860	+ 15	7.15	7.35	5,327	6,321	+ 19
Kansas	82	100	+ 22	7.30	7.15	599	715	+ 19
Kentucky	55	59	+ 7	7.00	7.25	385	428	+ 11
Minnesota	170	190	+ 12	7.20	7.65	1,224	1,454	+ 19
Missouri	190	230	+ 21	7.23	7.50	1,374	1,725	+ 26
Nebraska	160	195	+ 22	7.50	7.55	1,200	1,472	+ 23
North Carolina	93	112	+ 20	7.60	7.50	707	840	+ 19
Ohio	90	106	+ 18	7.30	7.50	657	795	+ 21
South Dakota	112	122	+ 9	7.15	7.30	801	891	+ 11
Texas	34	43	+ 26	7.30	7.60	248	327	+ 32
Wisconsin	85	98	+ 15	7.45	7.45	633	730	+ 15
Total 14 States	2,428	2,815	+ 16	7.19	7.37	17,469	20,743	+ 19

1/Number of pigs born March through May, that were on hand June 1, or had been sold.

Sows to Farrow, June through November, 14 States

States	June through August			September through November		
	1975	1976 1/	Change from last year	1975	1976 1/	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	62	75	+ 21	63	80	+ 27
Illinois	335	345	+ 3	315	340	+ 8
Indiana	190	230	+ 21	185	215	+ 16
Iowa	575	680	+ 18	540	700	+ 30
Kansas	70	90	+ 29	90	95	+ 6
Kentucky	52	60	+ 15	50	63	+ 26
Minnesota	155	180	+ 16	165	190	+ 15
Missouri	160	190	+ 19	190	230	+ 21
Nebraska	125	145	+ 16	145	170	+ 17
North Carolina	94	116	+ 23	83	95	+ 14
Ohio	85	96	+ 13	85	100	+ 18
South Dakota	68	80	+ 18	80	95	+ 19
Texas	42	50	+ 19	35	42	+ 20
Wisconsin	75	78	+ 4	77	91	+ 18
Total 14 States	2,088	2,415	+ 16	2,103	2,506	+ 19

1/Number indicated by breeding intentions reports.

MEAT STOCKS ABOVE YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of May were up 5 percent from a year ago. This was the first time since October 31, 1974 that meat stocks were above the previous year.

Beef stocks in cold storage on May 31 were up a third from a year earlier. The 409.3 million pounds of beef in storage were 8 million pounds above last month and more than 100 million pounds above May 31, 1975.

Pork supplies in cold storage continued below a year earlier. The 270 million pounds of pork in storage at the end of May were 17 percent under last year. Although pork stocks increased by nearly 3 million pounds during May, they were 53½ million pounds less than on May 31, 1975.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat

United States

Commodity	May 31, 1974	May 31, 1975	Apr. 30, 1976	May 31, 1976	Change from last year
1,000 pounds					Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	447,911	298,868	390,438	399,967	+ 34
In cure and cured	13,357	9,732	10,703	9,298	- 4
Total	461,268	308,600	401,141	409,265	+ 33
Pork:					
Frozen	397,144	309,041	250,237	253,981	- 18
In cooler	15,203	14,538	17,008	16,046	+ 10
Total	412,347	323,579	267,245	270,027	- 17
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	13,757	10,632	10,088	8,316	- 22
Lamb and mutton, frozen	16,820	8,819	9,622	9,604	+ 9
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	91,417	61,965	52,062	55,011	- 11
Other meats	15,677	12,024	11,785	12,374	+ 3
Total, all meats	1,011,286	725,619	751,943	764,597	+ 5

JUNE CROP REPORT

Harvesting of first crop hay has proceeded rapidly during the drier than usual June weather. About 55 percent of the first crop had been harvested by June 21 compared with only 15 percent a year ago when June was frequently wet. The fine haying weather has resulted in very good quality hay made. Quantity of hay is below normal however, especially in the northwest where a spring drought severely restricted hay growth. The first crop hay varies considerably in the State, with some good yields and others poor. Those farmers finished with first crop are hoping for rain to stimulate second crop growth. Pastures are in need of substantial rainfall as their condition is far below normal.

The corn crop has been growing well but will need rain soon to maintain development. Corn averaged 13 inches in height as of June 21 compared with 11 inches a year ago and 8 inches normally for that date. Corn height varied widely, with some knee high and others just up a few inches. Weeds have been a problem in those fields where herbicides were not effective because of the dry soils. There was more cultivating than usual this year. Poor germination in late planted corn fields caused uneven stands. Soybeans also had some spotty germination because of the dry weather but were looking good where moisture was adequate.

Oats and other small grains are heading out on short

straw. Some farmers in the very dry area of northwestern Wisconsin will cut oats for oatlage due to the poor grain potential.

Tobacco transplanting became active after rain was received on June 12-13. Harvesting of early peas is underway but yields are below normal because of the hot, dry weather. The pick-your-own strawberry harvest has been going on in June. Berries ripened fast in the warm weather but size was reduced where moisture was not available from irrigation.

Soil moisture supplies were reported as 80 percent short and 20 percent adequate as of June 21. This was the highest percentage reporting short moisture supplies for that time in June since 1964. Rainfall in May was below normal in all areas except the northeast and southeast. June rainfall has continued below normal. As of June 20, only the southeast had above normal rainfall since April 1. Crops are in better shape in the eastern areas of Wisconsin where moisture conditions have been more adequate this year.

Rainfall in Inches, by Districts, Wisconsin

District	Month of May			Since April 1		
	1975	1976	Normal	1975	1976	Normal
Northwest	2.4	.6	3.8	6.1	2.1	6.4
North Central	2.3	1.4	3.9	5.6	3.7	6.3
Northeast	2.3	3.9	3.5	5.3	6.8	6.2
West Central	3.5	2.4	4.0	8.9	5.9	6.6
Central	2.3	2.1	3.9	6.2	6.0	6.7
East Central	3.0	1.9	3.1	5.4	5.2	5.9
Southwest	3.0	1.9	3.8	7.5	6.6	6.8
South Central	3.0	2.8	3.4	6.6	6.9	6.3
Southeast	1.6	3.2	3.2	4.8	7.3	6.0

TART CHERRY CROP HITS 30-YEAR LOW

United States production of tart cherries is forecast at 71,000 tons for 1976. This is down 42 percent from last year's utilized tonnage and the smallest crop since 1945. The Great Lake States production as of June 15 is expected to total 59,600 tons compared with 114,370 tons utilized last year.

Wisconsin tart cherry production is forecast at 3,400 tons compared to 4,850 tons utilized in 1975.

Tart Cherries

State	Production		
	Utilized 1/		Indicated total 1976
	1974	1975	
Tons			
New York	8,100	12,500	7,000
Pennsylvania	6,550	5,770	4,100
Ohio	300	250	100
Michigan	103,000	91,000	45,000
WISCONSIN	5,200	4,850	3,400
5 Great Lake States	123,150	114,370	59,600
3 Western States 2/	9,150	8,700	11,500
Total	132,300	123,070	71,100

1/Excludes unharvested production and excess cullage (tons): Total 8 States: 1974, 150; 1975, 22,180. 2/Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

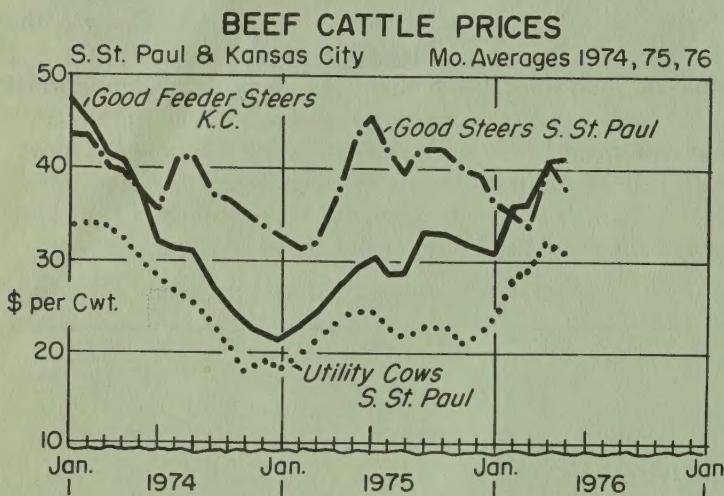
FED STEER PRICE LOWER IN MAY

Prices of good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$37.99 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market during May, down \$2.07 from April and \$4.64

under a year ago. Fed steer prices showed some recovery toward the end of May.

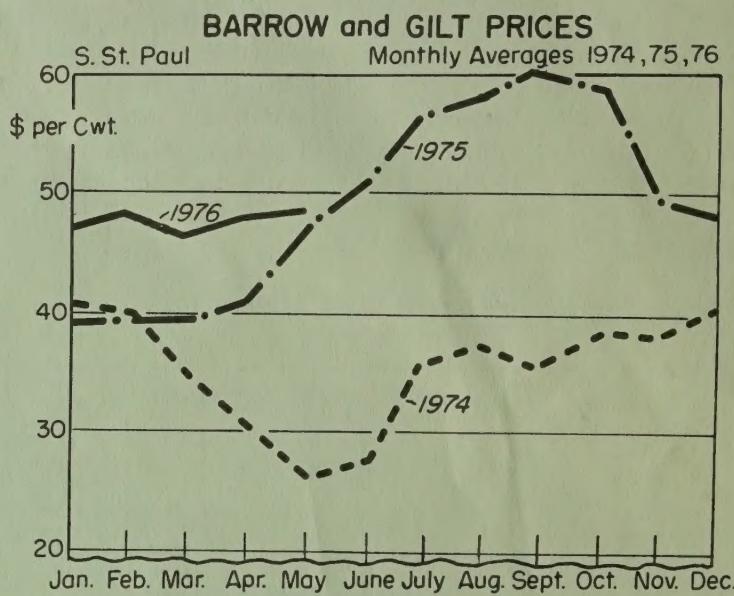
Utility cows averaged \$31.09 a hundredweight at St. Paul in May, a decline of about \$1.00 from the previous month but \$6.29 higher than May 1975.

Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$41.05 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market during May, a gain of 24 cents from April and \$11.60 above last year.



HOG MARKET UP

Prices of barrows and gilts averaged \$48.71 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market in May, an increase of 71 cents from a month earlier and \$2.04 greater than the previous year.



3400-4M60231-76

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